

COUNCIL HOSPITAL CONTRACTS.

Majority and Minority Reports of the Committee on Construction.

A BIG CUT IN THE GRADING BILL.

The Balance Due Ryan & Walsh Fixed at \$17,951.57—Another Long and Stormy Session of the Commissioners.

Appropriation sheet No. 96 of the general fund came up before the county commissioners yesterday afternoon on second reading. On this sheet were the names of John Corcoran & Son, Chambers & Co., and John Corcoran & Son, for work on the road, and investigation of Mount & Griffin's coal bill.

Mr. Berlin moved that these three names be stricken from the list. No second being received, the chairman called Mr. Turner to the chair and seconded the motion in order to bring the matter before the board.

Mr. O'Keefe objected to this and moved to amend by putting the street on its passage as read.

Mr. Berlin said the attendance of these witnesses had not been requested by the board, and, while the amount involved was small, it was establishing a bad precedent. The witnesses on the other side of the case had not been asked to appear, and if these bills were allowed these other witnesses could bring in their bills also.

Mr. O'Keefe took the floor and reiterated his oft-repeated statement that the board was continually doing things which it had no right to do.

Mr. Anderson said the county attorney had said these claims were illegal and the board had no right to pay them.

Messrs. O'Keefe and Anderson had a warm little squabble, and the board, after the board, the latter said the records of the board in the years past were silent as to the amount of money paid out on the hospital contract.

Things waxed very warm and the air was sulphurous for a few minutes, as these two war horses rode up the board, and the board, the latter said the records of the board in the years past were silent as to the amount of money paid out on the hospital contract.

Peace finally settled down on the scene and Mr. O'Keefe's amendment, to put the appropriation sheet on its passage as read, was called for.

Mr. Turner became hopelessly entangled in parliamentary rules and called for advice on all sides. He finally decided that he would put the amendment first and it was carried.

The question was called for, and the board, the latter said the records of the board in the years past were silent as to the amount of money paid out on the hospital contract.

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up and referred to the committee on construction, and the board adjourned to give the committee time to make its report.

The committee was called to order and a recess was taken until 10 o'clock, to allow him to present a minority report.

After waiting nearly two hours Mr. Anderson appeared with his report, and read it. He objected to Mr. Corcoran's report being accepted, as he had not certified that the building was completed according to plans and specifications, and made a motion to that effect, which was lost.

Mr. Anderson then proceeded to read a very voluminous report, covering about ten pages of legal cap. It went into all the details of the history of the hospital as reviewed by him before, winding up by reciting that, according to the records, the contractors had received a total of \$123,805.22 on account of the hospital, and as the contract price, with extras allowed by the superintendent, was \$127,882.92, he recommended that the contractors be awarded \$3,977.70, and that all claims of sub-contractors be rejected.

The majority of the committee, however, recommended that the committee on construction. The motion was lost.

The committee then rose and Mr. O'Keefe's report, by himself, Mr. Corcoran and Turner, was presented to the board.

Mr. Anderson called Turner to the chair and read his report, and then read the entire thing again while the other members looked longingly at the door. He then moved that his report be substituted for that of the majority of the committee. The motion to substitute was lost, Anderson and Berlin voting for it.

Anderson took the chair and Mr. O'Keefe moved the adoption of the majority report.

Mr. Berlin moved to amend the report by allowing the contractors \$10,157.07 on condition that they would accept of the estimate of about \$7,000 which is affixed and cannot be found. This amount was arrived at by allowing the contractors 12 1/2 cents per yard for the grading.

Mr. O'Keefe opposed this, saying that the kind of grading Ryan & Walsh had done was entirely different from that of the board, that they used a machine, while Ryan & Walsh had to load the dirt with shovels from corners.

Mr. Berlin defended his course and held that the amount he proposed was a fair and reasonable allowance.

Mr. Turner was again made chairman and Mr. Anderson took the floor. He charged that a job was on foot to fix up the thing so that the people would not see the difference and the matter kept out of court.

Mr. Berlin's amendment was called for and was lost, Messrs. Berlin and Anderson voting for it, and the other members against it.

The majority report was called for and read, and Mr. O'Keefe's amendment, to put the appropriation sheet on its passage as read, was called for.

Mr. Turner became hopelessly entangled in parliamentary rules and called for advice on all sides. He finally decided that he would put the amendment first and it was carried.

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THE METHODIST CONFERENCE.

Meeting of the Committee Having the Matter in Charge.

The gentlemen who compose the committee having in charge the investigation of Omaha's resources for entertaining the national conference of the Methodist Episcopal church met the local committee of seven and members of the committee of one hundred in the new club room of the Paxton last evening. Among the Omahans present were Bishop Newman, H. T. Clarke, Max Meyer, General Low, Clark Woodman, J. L. McCague, Mr. Robinson, E. J. Wellar, Colonel Scott, Samuel Burns, Rev. C. W. Savidge, Rev. E. E. Ensign, A. T. Rector and others.

In the absence of General Cowley, chairman of the committee of seven, Bishop Newman nominated H. T. Clarke as chairman of the meeting. Upon taking the chair Mr. Clarke said: "These gentlemen by whom we have been called upon to meet tonight, have been appointed a committee to investigate whether this city can entertain the next general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church. The last general conference designated this city as the place for holding the conference, and seven brethren of this city were appointed at a local meeting to see what could be done in the way of transportation and entertainment of delegates. Two years from now the way to obtain assistance from the railroads would be more clear than it is now. The officers cannot pledge themselves so far ahead, as while they are connected with certain railroads, they may be connected with other railroads. There is no doubt but that we will receive ample accommodations from them. In speaking with the bankers of the city, who used to be liberal towards us, and so are the mercantile houses and all business men of the city. I do not think it is probable that the people of Omaha will make it. I speak the sentiment of Omaha when I say we are well able to take care of the people and we will make it to your interest as well as ours to meet here. We will take you in and care for you and from what you have seen today I am sure that you are satisfied that we can fulfill any promises we make."

Mr. Clark Woodman stated that he had talked with a number of our leading citizens and that they were not willing to make any pledges so far ahead, he was assured from what they said that when the proper time came they would be glad to do so. He was certain that all denominations of church people in Omaha would take pleasure in entertaining the delegates and visitors to the conference.

Mr. Max Meyer was called upon by the chairman, Omaha, he said, had never done so much for the city as he was doing now. There had never been a single body assembled here and there had been some large ones—but that had been well entertained and the people had been well taken care of. In Omaha, he said, it was not necessary to begin preparatory work in a matter of this kind. Omaha was ready to do so. The city was well equipped for the reception of the conference. The city was well equipped for the reception of the conference. The city was well equipped for the reception of the conference.

Mr. Robinson spoke to the same effect. Mr. E. J. Wellar was certain that if the conference should meet here, the delegates would be handsomely entertained. There was but one sentiment among the citizens, that was to entertain the conference and entertain it royally.

Colonel Scott said that his father and mother belonged to the Presbyterian church, but that he had a wife and a daughter who were Methodists. "I have been told," said he, "that \$30,000 was required to build a church of this size. I would raise it. Omaha is a five-cent place, gentlemen. In old England they built a foundation and then gave it two years to settle before building the superstructure. In Omaha we build the superstructure first and then the foundation. I will promise you one thing, brethren, if you will give me the time, I will give you the best yellow-legged chickens in the world."

Samuel Burns and Rev. Mr. Savidge spoke to the same effect, and not be remiss in entertaining the conference.

A. E. Rector said that one man had raised \$1,000 for the Bradshaw sufferers in a few minutes, and taking that as a criterion, he would not require much time to raise \$30,000 for the conference.

Colonel Ensign spoke of the growth and achievements of Omaha. Omaha had entertained the Presbyterian conference and could take care of the Methodist brethren. He was sure that Omaha would be able to make up the \$30,000 that was required.

Mr. Dale said that from his talks with business men of Omaha, he was convinced that Omaha was ready to do so. The city was well equipped for the reception of the conference. The city was well equipped for the reception of the conference. The city was well equipped for the reception of the conference.

The gentlemen forming the committee, by request, then spoke briefly. They all commended the city highly and expressed their confidence in the city. From what they said there seemingly was but one obstacle to the conference meeting here, and that was the lack of a suitable building for holding the meetings. Mr. Hobbs said that he wanted to make a correction. The Bee had stated that Omaha was not a five-cent place, but that it was a five-cent place. Omaha was a five-cent place, gentlemen. In old England they built a foundation and then gave it two years to settle before building the superstructure. In Omaha we build the superstructure first and then the foundation. I will promise you one thing, brethren, if you will give me the time, I will give you the best yellow-legged chickens in the world."

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